

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 30, 2003 (Paper No. 8). Claims 1 to 38 are in the application, of which Claims 1, 24 and 38 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. In response, Claim 1 has been amended to improve clarity, as requested in the Office Action. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 112 rejections are therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 5, 8, 10, 23 to 30 and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent 6,233,252 (Barker), and the remaining claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Barker or over Barker in view of one of the following: U.S. Patent 5,151,696 (Miller); U.S. Patent 5,619,649 (Kovnat); U.S. Patent 5,862,223 (Walker); and U.S. Patent 5,940,504 (Griswold). In maintaining these rejections over Barker, the Office Action responded to prior arguments concerning Barker's failure to designate a destination location:

“Barker specifically states ‘once the very large data file (digital motion picture file) is reconstructed using the file conversion software 11a, it may be archived or processed in any desired manner. For example, the reconstructed digital motion picture file may be transferred to a digital projector 16 so that it may be displayed to an audience’, that corresponds to this limitation (col. 3, lines 13-18).” Office Action at page 3.

In keeping with this observation, Applicants would again emphasize that the claims require more than a simple designation of destination address; rather, the claims require an “indirect reference”. To emphasize this distinction between a simple destination address and an indirect reference, the claims herein have been amended so as to specify that the indirect reference is “usable to identify the electronic document folder” intended for the recipient. Accordingly, and also in view of the comments that follow, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The invention concerns control over a server in order to distribute document folders to recipients, wherein the server is a member of a system that includes at least one sending device, a plurality of servers, and at least one receiving device. A recipient is notified of the electronic document folder with an indirect reference, the indirect reference being usable to identify the electronic document folder intended for the recipient. A destination server is selected based on data provided by the recipient, the data including information with regard to the destination server designated by the recipient. The temporarily stored electronic document folder is thereafter accumulated at the selected destination server, wherein a receiving device of the recipient can retrieve the accumulated electronic document folder from the destination server via a network based on the indirect reference.

Barker describes sending of a file fragmented by a computer 11 to a motion picture theater 17. After reassembly of the fragmented file, the motion picture theater displays the reassembled file by using projector 16.

It is true that motion picture theater 17 of Barker bears similarities to receiving device 130 of the subject application. However, motion picture theater 17 only discloses transmission of fragmented files, and it does not disclose the notification to a recipient with an indirect reference as in the claimed invention. Further, Barker does not disclose a receiving device that can retrieve an electronic document folder from a destination server based on the indirect reference.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the claim herein define subject matter that is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by any combination of Barker or Barker with the secondary references to Miller, Kovnat, Walker or Griswold. Withdrawal of the § 102(e) and § 103(a) rejections is therefore respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


Attorney for Applicants

Registration No. 32622

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-2200
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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